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implements, or continues in effect any standard or requirement solely relating to health insurance issuers in connection with group health insurance coverage except to the extent that such standard or requirement prevents the application of a requirement of this part.

"(2) CONTINUED PREEMPTION WITH RESPECT TO GROUP HEALTH PLANS.—Nothing in this part shall be construed to affect or modify the provisions of section 514 with respect to group health plans.

"(b) SPECIAL RULES IN CASE OF PORTABILITY REQUIREMENTS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), the provisions of this part relating to health insurance coverage offered by a health insurance issuer supersede any provision of State law which establishes, implements, or continues in effect a standard or requirement applicable to imposition of a preexisting condition exclusion specifically governed by section 701 which differs from the standards or requirements specified in such section.

"(2) EXCEPTIONS.—Only in relation to health insurance coverage offered by a health insurance issuer, the provisions of this part do not supersede any provision of State law to the extent that such provision—

"(A) substitutes for the reference to 6-month period* in section 701(a)(1) a reference to any shorter period of time;

"(B) substitutes for the reference to 12 months and 18 months in section 701(a)(2) a reference to any shorter period of time;

"(C) substitutes for the references to 63 days in sections 701(c)(2)(A) and (d)(4) a reference to any greater number of days;

"(D) substitutes for the reference to 30-day period in sections 701(b)(2) and (d)(1) a reference to any greater period;

"(E) prohibits the imposition of any preexisting condition exclusion in cases not described in section 701(d) or expands the exceptions described in such section;

"(F) requires special enrollment periods in addition to those required under section 701(n); or

"(G) reduces the maximum period permitted in an affiliation period under section 701(a)(1)(B).

"(c) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this part shall be construed as requiring a group health plan or health insurance coverage to provide specific benefits under the terms of such plan or coverage.

"(d) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section—

"(1) STATE LAW.—The term "State law" includes all laws,

decisions, rules, regulations, or other State
action having the
effect of law of any State. A law of the United
States applicable
only to the District of Columbia shall be
treated as a State
law rather than a law of the United States.

"(2) STATE.—The term "State" includes a State,
the Northern
Mariana Islands, any political subdivisions of a
State or such
Islands, or any agency or instrumentality of
either.